News Release

Grand Opening of the Coral Harbour Arena

CORAL HARBOUR, Nunavut (March 2, 2012) – Hockey and skating season in Coral Harbour can now be extended thanks to the opening of the Coral Harbour Arena.

The Honourable Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut, the Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Community and Government Services along with Johnny Ningeongan, MLA - Nanulik, Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA - Nattilik and Jerry Panniuq, Mayor of Coral Harbour were all on hand for the official opening of the Coral Harbour Arena today.

“The Government of Nunavut is pleased to invest $2.05 million dollars in Coral Habour’s new arena,” said Premier Eva Aariak. “Supporting Nunavummiut to lead an active, happy and healthy lifestyle is a priority under this Government’s *Tamapta* mandate and this new arena will be a centre for recreation and cultural activities in Coral Habour.”

The Coral Harbour arena will continue to use natural ice rather than artificial ice during the hockey season. The technology used to extend ice use includes a concrete slab, a ventilation system which takes the cold air from outside the building and uses it to keep the arena ice cool and a thermosiphon system which takes warm air from below the concrete slab and releases it back into the environment.

“Upgrades to this important recreational facility will extend the hockey and skating season from October well into the spring,” said Minister Kusugak. “This technology has now become the standard for building new arenas across Nunavut to address climate change. It will ensure Nunavummiut benefit from a full hockey season every year where this system is present.”

This project was identified through multiple discussions with Hamlets, due to climate change; the ice season in a number of communities became shorter throughout the years. In 2009 the Department of Community and Government Services initiated feasibility studies in Arviat and Coral Harbour to examine extending the reduced ice season.

Since the completion of the feasibility studies, numerous communities have benefited from this technology. Arviat, Igloolik and Sanikiluaq have also upgraded their arenas and new arenas built in Repulse Bay, Resolute Bay and Pond Inlet also share this progressive ice technology that will continue to meet community needs in an ever changing climate.

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